



10 Important Insights

Into the Life of Christ

To Set The Tone For Our Study

**We Will Examine 10
Important Insights
To A Proper
Understanding of
the Life of Christ.**





Insight #1: Christ's Humanity

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- Jesus did not in any sense, to any degree, at any time, or for any season surrender any whit of deity.
- Colossians 2:9 – “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”
- Indeed, the very notion of “surrendering” deity is incongruous to the point of nonsense.

Understand Also

- Jesus did take upon Himself genuine human nature (Philippians 2:6-8).
- There is indescribable mystery in the proposition that “the Word became flesh” as it is presented and developed in the Gospel narratives.



Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

But That's Difficult To Grasp...

- The stewardship of the believer is to bow the knee to all that the Scriptures make clear, even if there are dynamics or ramifications of revealed truth which ultimately transcend his ability to fully comprehend.
- And the Scriptures make clear that Jesus' humanity – albeit unfallen humanity – was genuine and entire.

Therefore...

As we read the Gospel narratives of Jesus' life it is important to remember that except at those occasional and relatively infrequent times when the Holy Spirit directed Jesus to access and employ the superhuman capacities which are a function of His divine attributes, He lived out His life under the actual and real limitations intrinsic to unfallen humanity.



Insight #2: Christ's Ministry

Jesus' 3 1/2 Year Ministry

1. *Public Presentation* – 2 1/2 years of presenting Himself to Israel as her Messiah, saturating the land with His claims, working miracles to authenticate those claims

Followed by - after Israel had demonstrated her determination to reject Jesus' claims no matter how compelling the evidence He offered for those claims

2. *Private Preparation* – of His disciples for the fact of His death



Insight #3: Christ's Claims About Himself



Two Explicit Claims

1. He claimed to be the Messiah of Israel.

- The claim to Messiahship was cleverly encoded to appeal to Jews but to appear innocuous to the Roman overlords.



And Secondly...

1. He claimed that He was God come in the flesh, which was at once incongruous and scandalous.
- Just as His messianic claims, the claim to deity – scandalous to the Jews but to the Romans less incendiary than the claim to be king – was couched in ways especially telling to Jewish hearers.

Case in Point: John 8:56-58

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” **57** So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” **58** Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”





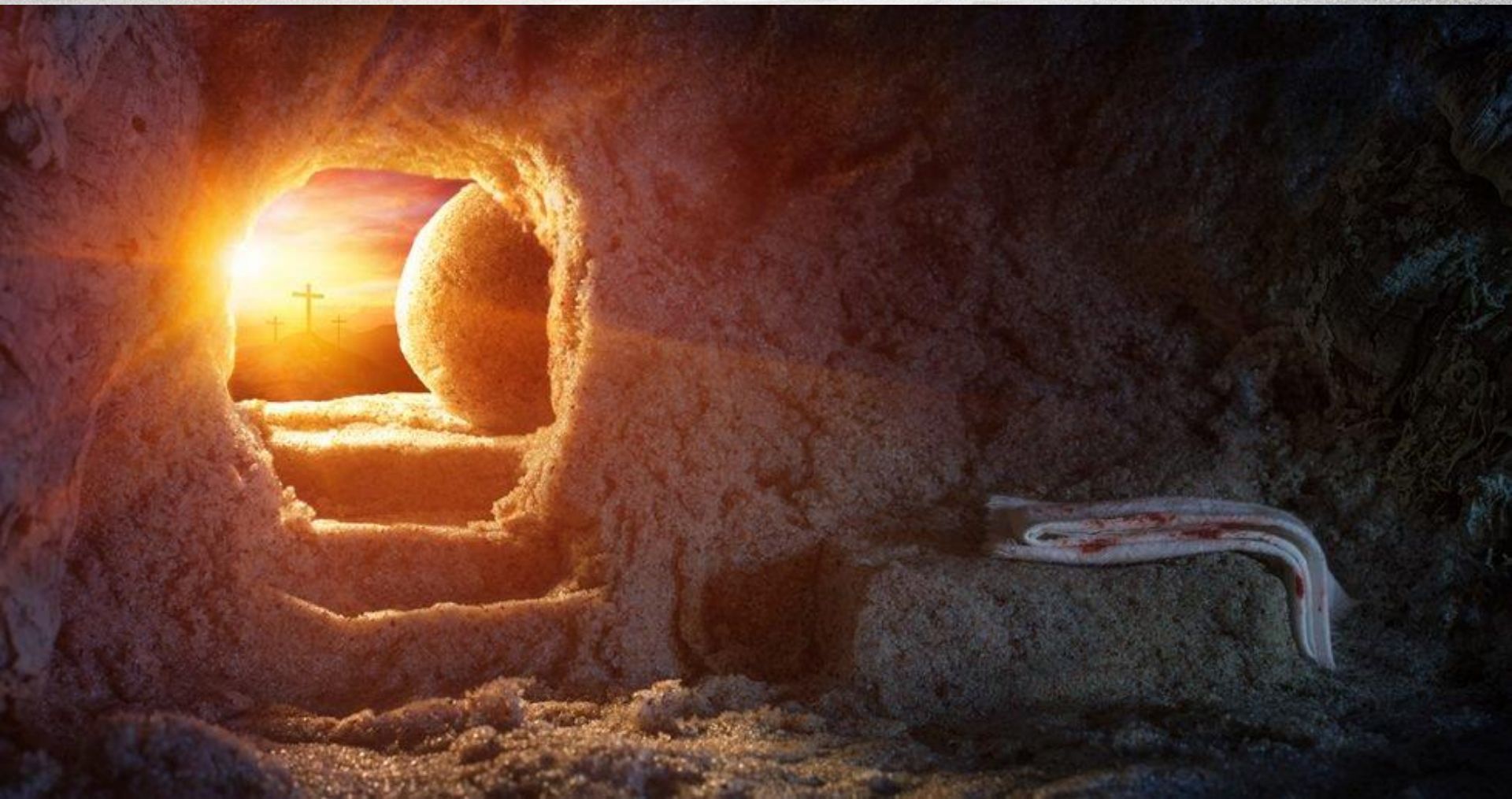
Insight #4: Christ's Miracles

The Purpose of Jesus' Miracles

- To prove true His remarkable claims concerning Himself (John 3:2; Acts 2:22).
- Thus, miracles were the most dominant during the period of Jesus' ministry when He was working to present Himself to Israel as her Messiah.



The greatest of the miracles wrought by Jesus, and thus the miracle with the most dramatic and important vindicating force, was His own bodily resurrection from the grave on the third day after His death and burial.





Insight #5: The Rejection of Christ

Why Was Christ Rejected?

- The rejection of Jesus' claims was not a matter of confusion, but of rebellion (John 2:11), and official rejection came early and grew steadily until it exploded in the crucifixion.
- On the other hand, popular rejection came later and was much more subtle, so much so that only Jesus had the insight to recognize the true heart of the multitudes.



Insight #6: Christ's Demands

Jewish Misconceptions

- Because the Jewish nation was weary of her Roman overlord, and because Jesus claimed to be Messiah and demonstrated that He was able to do miracles, His countrymen again and again insisted that they were willing to have Him as their Messiah/Deliverer.
- But they wanted Him on their terms rather than His; they were willing to acknowledge that they needed someone to deliver them from Rome, but they denied that they needed anyone to deliver them from sin.

Jesus' Masterful Strategy

- Jesus employed a remarkable strategy to unmask the superficial and hypocritical nature of the public adulation paid Him by the multitudes: when confronted by shallow proffers of acceptance, He would speak hard words—words which demanded a choice, the morally right choice being indicative of obedience/belief, but also involving a serious price to be paid by the one making that choice.



In Most Cases

This demand was that they reject the Pharisees (and specifically, the Pharisaic doctrine of righteousness by works) in order to accept His claims.





Insight #7: The Suffering Christ

A Suffering Messiah?

- Jesus never explicitly spoke of His death until within months of the event; when He did speak of it, nobody accepted it, especially the apostles.
- This unwillingness to accept Jesus' plain and oft-repeated statements seems to have been a function of two influences.

Two Influences

1. The apostles were crippled by the popular rabbinic misperception of the Messianic hope, which had little or no room for a suffering or dying Messiah.
2. The apostles were greedy for the chief places in the kingdom which Jesus had promised them, and they didn't want to hear about suffering by Him or by them.



Insight #8: Christ's Popularity

Jesus' Popularity

- Jesus remained a wildly popular folk-hero – the object of almost universal popular fascination – until the last week of His mortal life.
- This enduring and increasing popular fascination impacted Jesus' ministry in three very important ways.



Popularity Impacts Ministry #1

1. It deceived the apostles and disciples of Jesus, persuading them that in fact Jesus' claims were being broadly accepted, and thus making it difficult for those disciples to accept His prediction that He would die at the hands of the leaders of Israel.



Popularity Impacts Ministry #2

2. It enabled Jesus to escape the murderous hatred of His official enemies; they longed to take Him, but they could not because they “feared the multitude.”
 - Because Jesus was so wildly popular, the Jewish authorities could not simply seize him and stone Him.
 - They were fearful that if they were to do so there would be riots; if there were riots the Romans would find and severely punish those responsible.

The Situation:

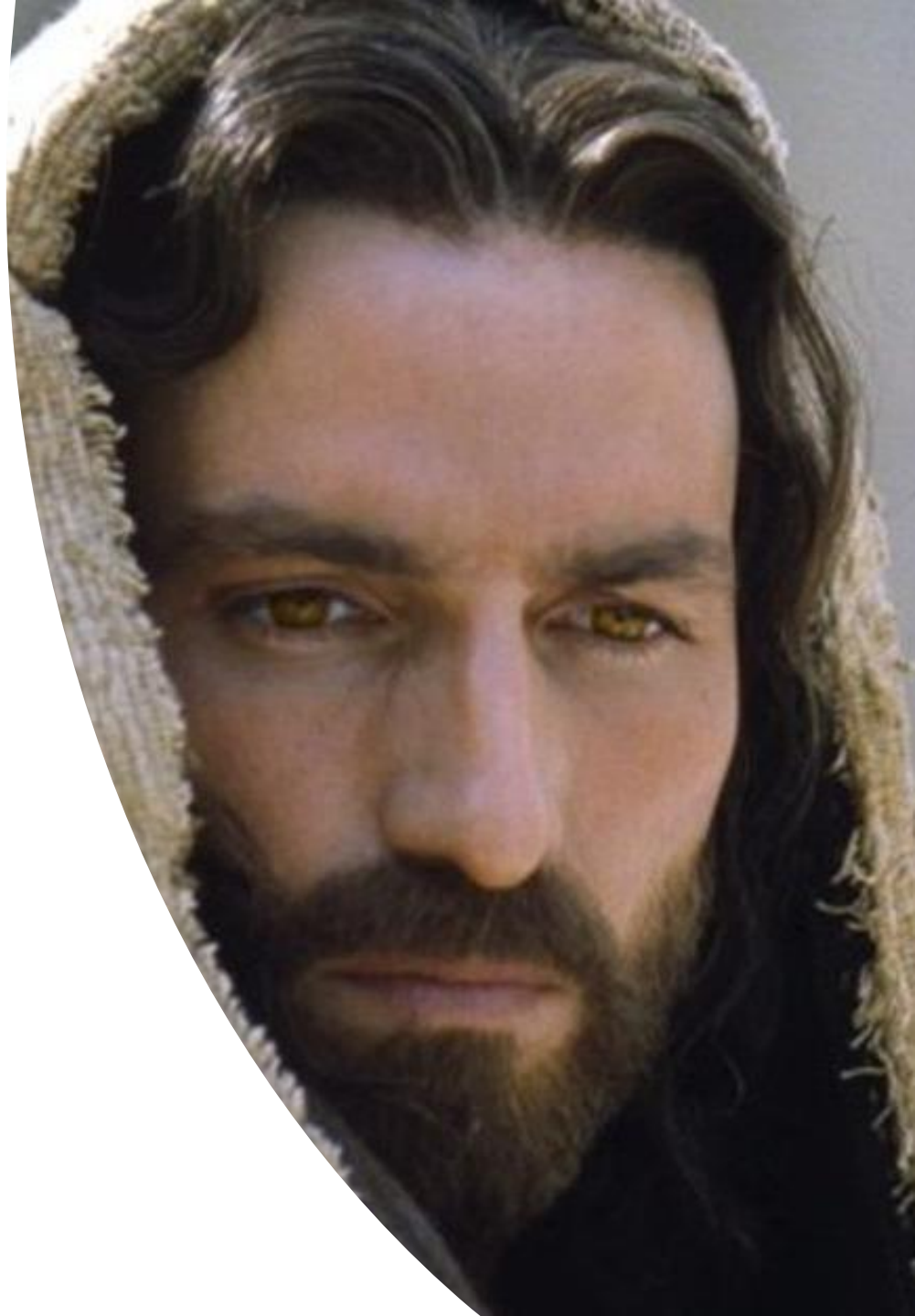
- Every Roman governor had two basic duties: collect the taxes and keep the peace.
- Although the Romans did not allow the Jews to exercise capital punishment [John 18:31], the officers in Judea had learned to look the other way if the Jews were to spirit away some inconsequential offender and put him to death [a la Stephen, Acts 6, 7].

And Therefore:

3. It forced Jesus' enemies to involve the Romans in the execution of Jesus.
- Further, those enemies worked hard to get Him on the cross before the town woke up on Friday.
 - However, when the town did awake, the Sanhedrinists were amazed and delighted that the populace had suddenly turned against Jesus.

Insight #9:

**“Wise”
&
“Innocent”**



Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I am sending you
out as sheep in the midst of
wolves, **so be wise as
serpents and innocent
as doves.”**



Wise

σοφός

Transliteration

sophos

Pronunciation

so-fo's (Key)

Part of Speech

adjective

Root Word (Etymology)

Akin to saphes (clear)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 7:465,1056

KJV Translation Count — Total: 22x

The KJV translates Strong's G4680 in the following manner: wise (22x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. wise
 - A. skilled, expert: of artificers
 - B. wise, skilled in letters, cultivated, learned
 - i. of the Greek philosophers and orators
 - ii. of Jewish theologians
 - iii. of Christian teachers
 - C. forming the best plans and using the best means for their execution

[Click for Synonyms](#)

Wise

φρόνιμος

Transliteration

phronimos

Pronunciation

fro'-nē-mos (Key)

Part of Speech

adjective

Root Word (Etymology)

From φρήν (G5424)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 9:220,1277

KJV Translation Count — Total: 14x

The KJV translates Strong's G5429 in the following manner: wise (14x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. intelligent, wise
- II. prudent, i.e. mindful of one's interests

[Click for Synonyms](#)

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

φρόνιμος *phrónimos*, fro'-ee-mos; from G5424; thoughtful, i.e. sagacious or discreet (implying a cautious character; while G4680 denotes practical skill or acumen; and G4908 indicates rather intelligence or mental acquirement); in a bad sense conceited (also in the comparative);—wise(-r).

Innocent

ἄθῳος

Transliteration

athōos

Pronunciation

ă-thō'-os (Key)

Part of Speech

adjective

Root Word (Etymology)

From ἄλφα (G1) (as a negative particle) and probably a derivative of τίθημι (G5087) (meaning a penalty)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

KJV Translation Count — Total: 2x

The KJV translates Strong's G121 in the following manner: innocent (2x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

/. not guilty, innocent, unpunished

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

† ἄθῳος *áthōos*, ath'-o-os; from G1 (as a negative particle) and probably a derivative of G5087 (meaning a penalty); not guilty:—innocent.

Innocent

ἄκέραιος

Transliteration

akeraios

Pronunciation

ä-ke'-rī-os (Key)

Part of Speech

adjective

Root Word (Etymology)

From ἄλφα (G1) (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of κεράννυμι (G2767)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 1:209,33

Trench's Synonyms: *iv.* ἀπλοῦς, ἄκέραιος, ἄκακος, ἄδολος.

KJV Translation Count — Total: 3x

The KJV translates Strong's G185 in the following manner: harmless (2x), simple (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I.* unmixed, pure as in wines or metals
- II.* of the mind, without a mixture of evil, free from guile, innocent, simple

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

ἄκέραιος *akéraiios*, ak-er'-ah-yos; from G1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of G2767; unmixed, i.e. (figuratively) innocent:—harmless, simple.



Insight #10: Christ's Death

The Truth is:

- Jesus' followers did not expect Him to die.
- The idea was absolutely offensive to them.





Perhaps Even More Controversial

The prospect of the
cross was horrifying
to Jesus.

Early on in His Ministry

- Jesus could anticipate the cross with some measure of equanimity.

John 4:34 – Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

- But as it drew near it filled Him with terror.

John 12:27 – “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.”

It is Accurate to Say:

- The most severe temptation faced by Jesus during His lifetime was the temptation to turn back from the cross (Matthew 16:22-23).
- This temptation is most graphically seen in the Lord's Gethsemane experience.

Luke 22:42,44 – “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done” ...And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

However...

That which so terrified Him was not the physical sufferings of crucifixion (as awful as those physical sufferings were); rather, He was filled with dread at the prospect of being made the sin-sacrifice for men, of being judicially forsaken by the Father.

Mark 15:34 – And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Furthermore...

In that temptation and during all the period of His mortality, Jesus had no more spiritual resources than you and I have; He was submissive to the Father, dependent upon the Spirit, obedient to the Scripture and sustained by prayer.



Hebrews 5:7-9

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him

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3. Christ's Claims About Himself
4. Christ's Miracles
5. Rejection of Christ
6. Christ's Demands
7. The Suffering Christ
8. Christ's Popularity
9. "Wise" & "Innocent"
10. Christ's Death

